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7 April 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: EXA/DDA
IRO/DO
IRO/DI
IRO/DS&T
IRO/DA

FROM: C/CRD

SUBJECT: U.S. Army Records on Vietnam to be Accessioned to NARA

1. On 1 April 1987 Mr. Alan Thompson, Chief of the Declassification Review Division at NARA, informed the undersigned that on 27 April 1987 at the Pentagon a brief ceremony will be held to mark the accessioning to NARA of the U.S. Army's Vietnam records. These records total 50,000 feet and cover the period through 1975. Mr. Thompson wanted to alert us to this event because CIA, with its extensive involvement in Vietnam, could have considerable equities in these records.

2. Mr. Thompson stated that after NARA personnel process and re-box the records they are expected to total between 20,000 and 30,000 feet. He also noted that the Army has already reviewed between 5,000 and 6,000 feet. They began at the lowest organizational level and worked up through the divisional level. This leaves the Corps and MACV level of records to be reviewed. NARA will begin the processing with the records already reviewed by the Army because they feel that these can be dealt with quickly and made available to the public in the matter of a few months. They feel that there is little or nothing classified in these lower unit records.

3. NARA believes that Congress will have a high degree of interest in the Army Vietnam files and will want to see them made available to the public soonest. For this reason NARA is asking Congress for one million dollars in a supplemental appropriation to provide the additional resources necessary. For his part, Mr. Thompson expects to use exclusively on this project a team of about eight declassification reviewers consisting of a cadre of experienced people with a few additional new-hires. He expects that the task of declassification review of those Army records will take about ten years.

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4. As for specific questions, Mr. Thompson stated that NARA would like to get from CIA some guidance on:

- a. How to identify information of interest to CIA;
- b. Where this information is likely to be found within the Army files;
- c. What to do with the CIA information when it is found or suspected.

5. Our initial reaction is that CRD, with possible assistance from the DO and DI, will have to survey these records to get an idea of just what these records consist of, what type of CIA information they contain and where it is to be found. At this early stage CRD suspects that CIA records that turn up in Army files will come from two broad areas reflecting the nature of the Agency's involvement in Vietnam. These are:

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7. This memo is to alert the addressees to this situation. CRD will keep abreast of developments and will report them as they occur. Please address any questions or comments to the undersigned

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